



Inmate Employability Program

Truck Driver Training Program in Sacramento



Under a new pilot project with the Sacramento City Unified School District's Heavy Duty Truck Training Program (SCUSD), ex-offenders are gaining valuable training and work experience by hauling various general merchandise and/or commodities for the Prison Industry Authority (PIA).

Under contract with PIA, the SCUSD is making available its equipment and its student drivers (about half of which are ex-offenders) to perform these transportation services for PIA. In addition, SCUSD provides for academic and operational supervision of these drivers, most of whom successfully transition into meaningful jobs upon completion of the program.

According to Truck Driver Training Program Coordinator Ward Allen, "This innovative partnership allows for real, on-the-road experience for parolees, helps reduce PIA shipping costs, and assists in funding this valuable training."

IEP Developing Video Training Program for Inmates

GED Preparation and Workplace Essential Skills

Two new training programs sponsored by IEP are under development and may soon be bench-tested in selected institutions throughout the State. Both involve a comprehensive series of 30-minute video tapes and related workbooks.

The first program is GED preparation training, a set of 39 videos designed to prepare the individual for taking the newly revised GED 2002 (high school equivalency) exam. The second course consists of 25 videos that teach "Workplace Essential Skills," including such competencies as finding and keeping a job, communication skills, and job-related reading, writing and math skills.

IEP field coordinators agree that inmate participation in such programs signifies a tangible achievement, something that was earned through hard work and dedication and will greatly enhance the inmate's work portfolio. Of particular interest to many is the *Workplace Essential Skills* series, as it provides inmates the opportunity to learn the attitudes and competencies necessary to succeed in the workplace.

IEP Steering Committee Approves Plan for Skill Standards

On March 12, the IEP Steering Committee heard a presentation from The Mackey Group (TMG), consultants for PIA on the development of a model skill standards system for PIA. TMG presented an overview of their contract deliverables including the set of skill standards they developed for PIA sewing machine operator and system software for the inmate assessment instruments, employability portfolio and other automated reports (e.g., CDC 101 and PIA 1-E).

There was considerable discussion as to the benefits of using skill standards to improve operational efficiencies and provide a means to document and compare the skills acquired by our inmate workers against a set of standards.

As TMG explained, skill standards have been used in private industry with great success to improve the quality of their workforce and thereby have a positive effect on goods and services.

As a result of this presentation, it was the recommendation of the IEP Steering committee to proceed with Phase 2 of this project. This phase will develop skill standards sets for the six remaining occupations in the PIA fabric products enterprise and pilot the use of this model system in the field.



TMG principals discuss their presentation materials with IEP staff prior to the meeting. Pictured from left are Laura Tonkin (TMG), Clint Webb (TMG), Mike Colwell (PIA), and Sue Mackey (TMG).